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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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MARY ANN GRAY SENTENCED FOR EMPLOYER THEFT

BALTIMORE, Maryland - Allen F. Loucks, United States Attorney for the District of Maryland, announced that Chief United States Judge Benson E. Legg sentenced Mary Ann Gray, age 50, of Baltimore, Maryland, today to 2 years in prison followed by 30 months of supervised release for one count of mail fraud arising from her theft of more than \$400,000 from her former employer, the Mid-Atlantic Venture Association, Inc., also known as MAVA. In addition, Chief Judge Legg ordered Gray to pay restitution of \$402,000.

According to plea agreement presented to the court on July 11, 2003, MAVA is a non-profit Maryland corporation located in Timonium, Maryland that promotes entrepreneur and venture capitalist relationships in the mid-Atlantic region. Gray was employed as MAVA's executive director from the early 1990's until January of 2002. Beginning in about December, 1996 Gray devised a scheme to defraud MAVA by issuing company checks totaling more than \$400,000 to pay for her personal expenses. Gray had signature authority for company checks up to \$1,000. For checks over \$1,000 she was to obtain a second signature from an authorized MAVA official. Gray used a signature stamp of the MAVA board president, without that official's knowledge or

permission, to place a second signature on some of the checks. She also represented to the company's accountant that checks were issued for legitimate company expenses when in fact the checks were used to pay various individuals, vendors and service providers for personal goods and services, such as: landscaping and interior decorating at Gray's residence, vacation rentals, home furniture, nanny services, and personal credit card charges for clothing and groceries.

The statement of facts further indicates that Gray previously had been employed as the Director of Development for the Johns Hopkins Children's Center from the late 1980's through October of 1991. While employed there, Gray allegedly used \$23,397.67 from the Johns Hopkins Children's Center telethon account to pay for personal expenses, including residential interior decorating.

The case was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Kathleen O. Gavin.